
The principal contents of the volumes are some diplomatic Papers of Richard III.; correspondence between Henry VII. and Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain; documents relating to Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk; and a portion of the correspondence of James IV. of Scotland.


The letters of Robert Grosseteste range in date from about 1210 to 1233, and relate to various matters connected not only with the political history of England during the reign of Henry III., but with its ecclesiastical condition. They refer especially to the diocese of Lincoln, of which Grosseteste was bishop.


The object of this work is to publish notices of all known sources of British history, both printed and unprinted, in one continued sequence. The materials, when historical (as distinguished from biographical), are arranged under the year in which the latest event is recorded in the chronicle or history, and not under the period in which its author, real or supposed, flourished. Biographies are enumerated under the year in which the person commemorated died, and not under the year in which the life was written. A brief analysis of each work has been added when deserving it, in which original portions are distinguished from mere compilations. A biographical sketch of the author of each piece has been added, and a brief notice of such British authors as have written on historical subjects.


In the first two volumes is a History of England, from the death of Henry III. to the death of Henry V., by Thomas Walsingham, Precentor of St. Albans. In the 3rd volume is a Chronicle of English History, attributed to William Rishanger, who lived in the reign of Edward L.; an account of transactions attending the award of the kingdom of Scotland to John Balliol, 1319–1322, also attributed to William Rishanger, but on no sufficient ground: a short Chronicle of English History, 1299 to 1306, by an unknown hand; a short Chronicle Willelmii Rishanger Gestæ Edwardi Primi, Regis Angliæ, with Annales Regnum Anglorum, probably by the same hand: and fragments of three Chronicles of English History, 1256 to 1397.

In the 4th volume is a Chronicle of English History, 1259 to 1289: Annals of Edward II., 1307 to 1323, by John de Trokelowe, a monk of St. Albans; and a continuation of Trokelowe's Annales, 1283, 1284, by Henry de Blaneforde: a full Chronicle of English History, 1292 to 1406; and an account of the Benefactors of St. Albans, written in the early part of the 15th century.

In the 6th, 7th, and 8th volumes contain a history of the Abbots of St. Albans, 793 to 1482, mainly compiled by Thomas Walsingham; and a Continuation of the Annals of St. Albans, 1307 to 1482.